THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (d) Government are not aware of any kickbacks. SAIL awarded the contracts for Durgapur Steel Plant modernisation in consultation with Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Ltd. (MECON), their Prime Consultants. The selection of M/s. Mannesman Demag Hut-tenteknik (MDH) of West Germany by SAIL for some packages of the DSP modernisation project was on the basis of MDH being the lowest tenderers and possessing the requisite experience and capabilities.

Crisis in Coffee Industry

485. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the crisis being faced by the coffee industry in the country at present ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons leading to the present crisis in the coffee industry stating the average percentage of annual fall in production and exports during the last three year-wise and the consequential fall in foreign exchange earnings thereby ;

(c) what export incentives are being given by Government to the coffee growers ; and

(d) what steps are contemplated by Government to save the coffee industry from total collapse ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN) : (a) and (b) The coffee industry was confronted with a difficult situation last year. This was because international prices of coffee had crashed on account of the failure of the International Coffee Agreement in July, 1989. There has been no fall in exports of coffee. The details of production and exports of coffee during the last three years are as under :—

Year	Production (July– June)	Exports (Tonnes)	Value (Rs. crores)
1987-88	1,22,275	92,461	259.84
1988-89	2,14,057 (P)	98,256	337.68
1989-90	1,30,000 (E)	1,30,172 (P)	351.80

(E)- Estimated (P) - Provisional

The fluctuations in coffee production are on account of cylic nature of coffee crop.

(c) and (d). Some of the recent steps taken by the Government to provide relief to the coffee growers/ industry are as under :—

(f) Upward revision of Minimum Release Price (MRP) of coffee w.e.f. 08/03/1990 ;

(if) The Central Excise Duty on coffee has been reduced from Rs. 105/- per quintal to Rs. 50/- per quintal ;

(7/7) Repayment of crop loan granted by the Coffee Board has been rescheduled ;

(iv) The rate of REP licence has been increased from 4% to 10% in the new Import-Export Policy.

Apart from the above, coffee is already exempt from the purview of export duty. A cash compensatory support at the rate of 20 % is provided on the exports of instant coffee in 100 gm tins and 18% on its export in bulk.

बिहार में गया काटन मिल को पुनः चालू किया जाना

486. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकार द्वारा बिहार में गया काटन मिल को पुनः चालू किये जाने के लिये क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं ; और

(ख) क्या सरकार उक्त मिल के मजदूरों की हालत को देखते हुये उन्हें किन्हीं अन्य मिलों में रोजगार देने पर विचार कर रही है ?

वस्त्र मंत्री, साथ में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय का अतिरिक्त प्रभार (श्री शरद यादव) : (क) एन०टी०सी० (डब्ल्यू०बी०ए०बी०ओ०) लि., कलकत्ता के अधीन एक वस्त्र एकक गया काटन एंड जूट मिल्स पहले ही प्रचालन में है । इस मिल के कार्य-निष्पादन में सुधार लाने के लिये 1 करोड़ रु० के परिव्यय वाली आधुनिकीकरण योजना बनाई गई है ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

देश में दस शीर्षस्थ व्यापारिक प्रतिष्ठानों की ओर आयकर की बकाया राशि

487. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश में सबसे अधिक आयकर देने वाले उन शीर्षस्थ व्यापारिक प्रतिष्ठानों के नाम क्या हैं जिन्होंने गत वर्ष के दौरान आयकर दिया है ;

(ख) प्रत्येक मामले में कितनी राशि देय थी, कितनी राशि का भुगतान किया गया और कितनी राशि बकाया है ; और

(ग) सरकार द्वारा बकाया राशि को वसूल करने के लिये क्या कार्यवाही की गयी है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री अनिल शास्त्री) : (क) से (ग) सूचना इकट्ठी की जा रही है और सभा-पटल पर रख दी जायेगी ।

Measures to Encourage Agricultural Exports

488. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received the Report of the Committee appointed by Board of Trade to recommend policy measures to encourage agricultural export;

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations contained therein alongwith the major objectives to be achieved thereby ; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government on the basis of the report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.